

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

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Tallahassee, Friday, March 24, 1905.

There's a vast difference between a poor man and a poor sort of a man.

We are in town to stay, and don't you forget it! Just come around when you wish neat printing quick.

General Kuropatkin is to stay at the front. He has swapped positions with General Linevitch and will command the first Russian army.

More dangerous to this country than the influx of foreigners are the people who think work with the hands is degrading. On the other hand, manual work is the foundation of prosperity.

Law makers should not become law-breakers during the session of the Legislature. We have a few blind tigers here gentlemen. They are old coons, however, and so far have escaped punishment.

The Supreme Court of Ohio, on the 21st, upheld the constitutionality of the criminal section of the Valentine anti-trust law. The civil section had already been passed upon as constitutional some time ago.

The editor of this newspaper returns thanks to the brethren of the Florida press for the many nice notices they continue to give us and our paper. We hope to prove worthy the confidence they all bespeak for us.

We stand ready to compare shipper's invoices with any Job Printing Office in Middle Florida, to prove beyond a shadow of doubt that we have bought and paid cash for, and printed up more neat commercial job work than has any other print shop in this section. And still it rolls in.

The Colorado General Assembly in joint committee on the 21st, exonerated James H. Herbert, vice-president and general manager of the Colorado & Southern Railroad and Daniel Sullivan, postmaster of Cripple Creek, who had been charged with bribery in the gubernatorial contest.

Every farmer should be shy of the stove men who are all the time traveling about the country. They charge twice as much as their stoves are worth. Not one farmer out of a dozen but regrets his purchase, if he should be wheedled into buying one of the stoves. The best way is to buy of men at home who are responsible.

We have this week turned out from our Job Printing Office two very neat and clean pamphlets—the supreme court rules and a new telephone list. Examine them closely, compare them with any job work of their kind ever done in Florida, and then if you wish printing done of the same kind, at reasonable prices, call on us. We are prepared to do the best printing on the shortest notice, and we guarantee satisfaction every time.

A Washington dispatch of the 21st says President Roosevelt has under consideration the case of Midshipman Arrowood of Burlington, N. C., who was recently convicted by court-martial of desertion from the navy and sentenced to dismissal in disgrace. It is understood to be the President's intention to mitigate the sentence, so far as to order Arrowood's dismissal from the service for absence without leave, which will relieve him of the death penalty.

The act of Congress making appropriations for the department of agriculture, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, contains the following item: "The secretary of agriculture is hereby directed to obtain in the open market samples of seeds of grass, clover or alfalfa, test the same, and if any such seeds are found to be adulterated, or misbranded, to publish the results of the tests, together with the names of the persons by whom the seeds were offered for sale." Good idea!

As Represented.

"How do you like that house I put up for you last year?" asked the roving contractor.

"Why, confound it," snapped the irate farmer, "a cyclone swept it away while my wife was inside."

"Ah! that is just as I stated."

"What?"

"That your wife would be carried away with it."—Chicago Daily News.

FLORIDA'S REFORM SCHOOL.

A somewhat lengthy communication published in a Marianna newspaper of March 9th, has drawn public attention to the conditions existing in the State Reform School at that place. The letter, without date, is signed by Hon. William H. Milton, chairman of the board of managers, and it contains a great deal of very interesting and valuable information. Viewed as a whole, it appears to have had a two-fold purpose, viz: To defend the board against criticisms which have been made in the County of Jackson, where the school is located, and to urge the members of the Legislature from that county, and from the State at large, to secure larger appropriations from the State treasury for the maintenance of the school; and incidentally to complain that the people of Jackson county do not seem to wish the school continued at Marianna.

In his letter Chairman Milton says: "The funds provided by the State have not only been insufficient to warrant the employment of enough guards to prevent escapes;" and he cites the extraordinary fact, in support of his contention, that "it has been necessary to shackle many of the prisoners while they are at work to prevent escapes," and that the statutory meetings of the board have been discontinued in order that the funds they would have cost might be used in maintenance.

Mr. Milton evidently did not, when he wrote this letter, have before him his own report made to the Legislature of 1903, where he says: "The usual appropriation of \$2,500 per annum for maintenance will be sufficient and necessary for the next two years."

In order to get at the facts concerning the cost of this institution it may be well to review the financial conditions that are shown by the record. The act creating the school was passed in 1897, with the appropriations for land and buildings in the sum of \$12,500. In 1899 an additional building fund was appropriated of \$5,000, to complete buildings and equipment, making a total of \$17,500. The appropriations for maintenance have been: 1901, \$5,000, and 1903, \$5,000, making a total from the State treasury of \$27,500. The citizens of Jackson county, as an inducement to secure the location of the school, made a voluntary contribution of \$1,400. The income of the school from the several counties, for the maintenance of inmates sent therefrom, and some other small items, so far as can be ascertained from the several financial reports which have been published, and which are exceedingly imperfect in form, has been, altogether, \$2,144.24. Mr. Milton, in the letter referred to above, states that the institution now has a debt of \$2,000, "for necessary stock and buildings."

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| To recapitulate— | |
| From the State | \$27,500 00 |
| From donations | 1,400 00 |
| From counties | 2,144 24 |
| Debt | 2,000 00 |
| Total | \$33,044 24 |

In connection with the letter of Mr. Milton we find in the Marianna Times-Courier, in which paper it first appeared, an editorial in which occurs the following: "It would not be surprising if the next legislature—after considering the amount that these juvenile prisoners will bring to the State under the present convict lease system—should abolish the school entirely." And Mr. Milton in his letter says: "This institution can be made a success by the co-operation of our citizens and the active work of our representatives in the legislature. But if our citizens do not want it, and our representatives will not aid in securing proper laws and appropriations for the school, it seems to me that it would be best to let the next legislature abolish the school or remove it to some county where the citizens will make a success of it."

Reading between the lines, it appears that an exceedingly unfortunate and deplorable condition of sentiment exists in Jackson county concerning this institution. With the causes of this condition it is immaterial to inquire. The people of the State, whose money is being used for its maintenance, are, or should be, concerned only with the facts as they exist affecting the former management and future destiny of the school. That it ought to be maintained, for the accomplishment of the purpose of its creation, needs no argument. That a change in its management is imperatively demanded, is absolutely certain. It appears to be a failure as a Jackson county institution, managed exclusively since its creation by Jackson county officials; now let the Legislature and the Governor make it a State institution, managed by the best administrative material that can be procured anywhere in the State, and governed by the Board of State Institutions, as that body so ably governs the Hospital for the Insane and the State Prison.

To "remove" the reform school from its present location would be expensive folly; to abolish it would be shameful.

THE IMMIGRATION BUREAU IDEA.

Jacksonville Times-Union.

The proposition to establish a bureau of immigration in this State has already excited apparent opposition, together with the favorable indorsement generally accorded the idea.

From one quarter comes an objection, based upon the ground that a State board would inevitably fall into the hands of the machine politicians, and thus be diverted from its true purpose.

From another contemporary is heard a note of alarm over what is represented as a proposition to establish the bureau in Jacksonville, which, we are told, would be unconstitutional.

These objections may be valid, but, it must be confessed, they seem to be very far-fetched and of little, if any, weight.

It is true that the proposition to establish a State bureau of immigration has been widely indorsed in this city, but we have yet to learn that it has ever been seriously contemplated to make Jacksonville its permanent abiding place.

Tallahassee must necessarily be the center of any such organized official movement in the interest of immigration, and we are well aware that the most to which Jacksonville, or, for that matter, any other city in the State, could aspire in this direction would be the presence of a State immigration agent for a branch office.

The other proposition, to the effect that this work should be done by corporate and individual exertion, rather than by the State, seems even more untimely.

We are all too apt to forget that the people are the State—that the State is the people; and that the machinery of State is simply the agency through which the popular will should express itself.

No thing is more difficult than to help those who will not help themselves, and while there is every reason to believe that our great landowners and corporations would heartily cooperate in the movement likely to increase the flow of immigration to Florida, we are, nevertheless, of the opinion that the initial purpose should come from the people themselves, speaking through their chosen representatives in the Legislature that is to convene, for better or worse, in Tallahassee on April 4.

Libel in South Carolina.

In a case brought before the Supreme Court of South Carolina on demurrer, a decision was handed down declaring that it is libelous to publish a white man as a negro. Two newspapers referred to a white man as "colored." He entered suit against each for \$10,000. One paper demurred, claiming that under the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution the application of the word "negro" or "colored" to any one is not defamatory nor libelous. The court cites a number of cases, and says:

"It must be apparent from consulting the texts of these amendments that there is not the slightest reference to the social conditions of the two races, and nothing can be imported into those amendments to give any such effect. We take pleasure in bowing to the authority of the United States in regard to these three amendments, but we would be very far from admitting that the social distinction subsisting between the two races has been in any way affected. We, therefore, hold that these three amendments to the Federal Constitution have not destroyed the law of this State, which makes the publication of a white man as a negro libel."

Especially Those in Tallahassee.

Rev. S. M. Provence, in a letter to the Southern Witness, congratulating that excellent religious paper on the improvements made, closes as follows: "Years after this collapse I found myself driven to the Flowery Land to win balm and healing from its glorious sunshine, and it was rudely hinted that I was both old and hopeless. It's funny, isn't it, how disagreeable things travel? They said, 'That old man has come too late. He might as well have stayed at home to die, and saved his friends the trouble of carrying him back in a box.' Is it any wonder, then, dear Witness, that I have a boundless faith in its future? And who knows but that I may again breathe its scented air, be fanned by its gentle breezes, and find a final resting place in its kindly bosom? Give my heart's love to all my friends, especially those in old Tallahassee, and come to see me and bring me each week tidings of the Kingdom's progress. I sincerely wish for you the very highest prosperity and usefulness. I am well and happy and hard at work in one of the most agreeable pastimes I have ever held."

If something is not done speedily to destroy the mistletoe in our beautiful oaks, they will all die and Tallahassee will lose one of the features that makes our city the prettiest in sunny Florida.

A TIME TO TRADE ELSEWHERE.

From the Tampa Tribune.

Some people are in the habit of quoting fragmentary passages of scripture and applying them to their present purpose or desire. In an argument regarding buying goods of the big department stores a friend says: "There is a time for everything, and so it must be right for us to buy where I please." "Certainly," replied another, "there is a time for you to buy of Sears, Roebuck & Co., and Montgomery, Ward & Co., and I can tell you when it is: 'When you do not owe a single home merchant a dollar. Don't send money to Chicago when home merchants have been waiting on you for months. When you feel sure that your farm would be worth as much as it is now, or more, if there was not a town between here and Chicago; for if everybody bought their goods there it would do away with all the small towns this side of there. When Sears, Roebuck & Co., and Montgomery, Ward & Co. pay your salary, the school teacher who draws his money from the district, the laborer who works about town, the farmer who markets his produce to the local dealers, the teamster who hauls for the local merchants are morally bound to support the community which supports them. And lastly, when you have no interests in the community in which you live, no neighborly or brotherly feeling for your own immediate neighbors, but rather a great desire to add to the immense fortunes already piled up by these department stores. Then it is time for you to buy of the department store if you want.'"

Town Killers.

Many towns in the South, says the Gainesville Sun, are kept back by the men known as "town killers," who are never in the front rank with any enterprise for themselves, but are watching someone else who desires to locate and figuring how much they can make in the deal. Two or three grasping individuals can work great injury to any town.

The man who goes to a town with no other object in view than to make money out of it is not likely to be very careful how he makes it, nor is he likely to be interested in any improvements or betterments except such as will put money in his purse. His main reason for being there is to benefit himself, and when that can no longer be done he pulls up stakes and looks for another open door. Better a man of little means who will devote all his efforts and energies to the work of building and bettering his own town than one who cares for nothing but squeezing all he can out of his fellow-citizens.

But the man who is always ready to assist any new enterprise is the kind needed. They take pride in their town, talk for it and work for it. Florida has many good towns, with room for many new enterprises, and the fact that thousands are coming here is evidence that there is room for new enterprises all over the State.

A Perfect Prayer.

One finds this perfect New Year petition in Michael Monahan's magazine, the Papyrus (says the Ocala Banner) which is not a religious publication in the orthodox sense. Mr. Monahan is the editor of it:

"Thou who holdest the years in thy hand, teach me not to fear that which now thou sendest. Help me to understand that no harm can come to me if I rightly possess my soul. Give me enough wisdom for the day, and enough hope for the morrow. Strengthen my hand and heart for the work I have chosen; make me never to doubt it or slight it, but always to see it, in steady faith, the one and only task for me. Drive far from the coward fears of self. Give me the will to do my work in bravery and cheer. Teach my love to remember and my anger to forget. Save me from the cowardice which turns the other cheek; but let me not strike without good cause. Help me to build my house of life stronger, safer, purer. Take not away my illusions. Keep me from thinking of those who hate me. Suffer me not to be anxious about other men's motives. Help me to conquer myself, but let me not lose power in subjection and courage in humility. Make thy New Year a memorable one for me. Whether it bring failure or the ripe fruit of my hope, let me not be discouraged—let me fall, if I fall I must, still faithful to the task!"

A Good Story.

Kansas City Star.

Senator Blackburn relates a story of a lawyer in Kentucky who was generally very fortunate in winning his suits in the lower courts of that State, and equally unfortunate in losing them by reversals by the Supreme Court of the commonwealth. One day the Senator chanced to find the lawyer in a train pulling out of Louisville, and on the attorney's knee was spread a huge law volume, which he appeared to be devouring with much interest.

"Well, my friend," said Mr. Blackburn, "don't you get time enough in your office to read law, without fetching law books on a journey?"

The lawyer sniffed contemptuously. This isn't a law book that I'm reading," said he. "It's a volume, sah, relating to the decisions of the Supreme Court of the State of Kentucky."

Don't think you are an old man at sixty; that's all fudge. Keep your grip.

The Wailes-Beard Claim.

From the Pensacola Journal.

This claim occupied a great deal of the attention of the last Legislature and will again be brought to the attention of the coming session of that body. The Senate committee, headed by Senator W. A. Blount, of this city, spent five weeks in the examination of all the data and of all persons whom it was thought would have any knowledge which might help the committee to make a just report and a proper recommendation for the payment of the amount due the claimants by the State.

After this extensive examination, a minority of the committee, headed by Senator Blount, reported that they considered the contract which the State made with Wailes and Beard as binding, and that 15 per cent of the total amount allowed by the United States government should be paid to the claimants under the contract. This total amount was \$1,089,158.66, and the sum due the claimants (15 per cent) was therefore \$163,373.79.

Some little confusion may have arisen in this connection, owing to the fact that of the amount paid to the State, a portion was represented by the cancellation and return of certain State bonds with accumulated interest, which the national government held against the State of Florida. Whether, however, the amount received by the State was actual cash or part cash and a liquidation of State debt, it all represented the same thing to the people of Florida, and the agents, Wailes and Beard, who secured the settlement, were entitled to full pay under their contract.

The truth of the matter is, the State bonds of \$132,000 with accumulated interest at 7 per cent, which the United States government held against the State of Florida had become a source of so much concern to the business men of the State that in 1887 Governor Perry, in a message to the State Legislature, urged that body to take a full settlement of the Indian war claim by accepting those State bonds and a cash balance of \$92,648.09, without interest, which the State claimed from the government. This proposed settlement, which the Legislature agreed to accept, though made in the very best of faith, was defeated by Col. Wailes, and it forms a striking contrast to the splendid settlement which was ultimately made.

It is a fact not generally known, except to those who have had dealings with the general government, that the United States seldom pays interest on claims, and the claimant is fortunate, indeed, if he gets the principal. In this case, however, the State of Florida gets full interest of 7 per cent on its original claim dating back from about 1856.

The amount which the State of Florida owes the Wailes-Beard claimants is a debt of honor, and it should be paid. They collected the claim, they have never received a cent for their services, and the State itself paid absolutely nothing to effect the settlement.

Citizen "Bob."

From the Palatka News.

Hon. and Mrs. Robert W. Davis arrived from Washington on Sunday, and are now at their pleasant home on North Third street.

For the first time in many years Mr. Davis is a private citizen, and he made his appearance at the law office of Davis & Hilburn, where he remained for only a short time with his partner, but on Tuesday morning he again appeared, carrying in his hand a bundle of legal papers, which he had been examining at his home, and immediately entered into the consideration of cases that had been entrusted to his firm in anticipation of his coming.

Mr. Davis says that his sole occupation now will be the upbuilding of his legal practice, and that he is entering into the work with all his old-time spirit and enthusiasm.

When asked as to whether he could be contented in Palatka, and if it would not be better in a business way to locate in Jacksonville or some other large city, Mr. Davis turned on his questioner quickly, with the reply: "Why, bless you, man; I wouldn't think of leaving Palatka for a moment; this is my home; these are my people, and there's joy in living among them here in old Palatka, such as I could never get in another place. No; I'll get business enough right here."

The people of Palatka also count it fortunate that Mr. Davis is again among them, and particularly at this time, when the city is making rapid forward strides, commercially, industrially and in matters municipal. As Citizen "Bob" Davis, they are going to look to him for a certain amount of leadership in our present advance movement, and from an impression The News has formed from previous interviews with the man they are not going to look in vain.

Mr. Davis is in for the "forward march." He thinks Palatka and Putnam county have "marked time" long enough.

Pointed Paragraphs.

A safe-breaker should be looked up for safe keeping.

If you would please a woman, say nothing and listen.

Some men get married because they are tired of being in love.

Typewriters are to be less expensive—the machines, not the operators.

Silence may be golden, but you can't make an insurance agent believe it.

You may have noticed that men who oppose monopolies have no stock in them.

Many a man has accidentally lost his best umbrella by an unexpected meeting with the owner.

Every time a man calls his wife an angel she thinks he is hatching some scheme to avoid buying her a new gown. —Chicago News.